

# Focus on Fifth

## Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

September 1, 2014

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

### Important Dates

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| September 4, 6-8:30 p.m.  | Curriculum Night                       |
| September 17, 6-8 p.m.    | PTO Garden Harvest                     |
| September 26              | The Windy Tall Ship Field Trip         |
| September 27, 5-7:30 p.m. | PTO Fall Carnival                      |
| October 6                 | School Pictures                        |
| October 10                | Institute Day (No School)              |
| October 23-24             | Parent/Teacher Conferences (half days) |

### News

Your child will bring home a green **Emergency Data Form** on Tuesday. These forms ensure that we have the most current parent information. Ms. Krikau needs these forms no later than Friday, Sept 12.

We are scheduled for our **first field trip** on Friday, September 26. The entire fifth grade will board The Windy tall ship at Navy Pier and sail on Lake Michigan while we learn about the physics of sailing, pirate lore, and the history of sailing on the Great Lakes. Permission slips will go home this week. Please be sure to return these promptly, as we must pay in advance. Please note that chaperones are required to pay as well.

### Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:

<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

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### SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

**Art** - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) 5th grade artists are spending the first few weeks (classes) of Art creating a radial design out of their names. Their name will be repeated eight times around a central axis. The result will be an abstract design resembling a mandala or a rose window.

**Music** - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> What a great first week! It has been great meeting 5th graders new and old this week in music. We learned the round "Riddle Ree" which we did in 6 parts! I will be posting additional pictures, videos, and information this year on my blogspot. This week in the links/videos page is a link about the pros and cons of voice lessons for elementary students. Please come visit it sometime!

**Chorus** - We had an informational meeting for chorus this week. If your child is interested in joining chorus but did not come to the meeting, please have them pick up a permission slip from me. Chorus will be Wednesdays from 8:15-9.

**Spanish** - Welcome back to another school year! I am very excited to be teaching the fifth graders Spanish again this year. We have been getting reacquainted and have been turning their "Spanish channels" back on. We also welcome Ms. Favela, our student teacher. She is studying at Concordia and will be with us until mid October. I look forward to seeing parents this week at Curriculum Night. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>.

**Library** - Welcome to a new year in the library! It was a fabulous week meeting new friends and seeing familiar faces. This coming week we will be discussing book care and checking out books. Fifth graders are welcome to check out three library books at a time, for two weeks. Books can be renewed (unless there is a hold on the book), and students will have the opportunity to check out more than three books when research projects dictate. Please email [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) with any questions, or stop by the library during curriculum night. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

**Physical Education** - ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com))

District Dance Unit Xbox 360 (Just Dance 4) is a rap. The kids loved the activity. Fitness and Conditioning activities are now in full swing. We prepare now for our District 97 Fun Run this Saturday; Lindberg Park; 8am. Looking forward to another grand turn from Holmes.

### **Reading/Literature**

In Reading class we are discussing our "Reading Lives" as well as developing routines for our Reading Workshop. Last week we explored when reading is the best and the worst for us. Mr. Porter and Mr. Finkbeiner also led a number of Book Talks, so that students could begin compiling a "Books I Want to Read" list. This week we will introduce student Reading Logs, discuss what makes a "Good Fit" book, and discuss strategies to help us be active, thoughtful, and disciplined readers. Students will be required to record the book they're reading, as well as, the minutes and pages they read each night. Eventually students we be asked to analyze their reading data in order to notice trends in their "Reading Lives".

### **Writing**

5th graders are participating in a mini-unit focused on interviewing and reporting on a classmate. Last week we listened to Storycorp interviews and discussed what makes a great interview question. This led to learning about "Thin" questions and "Thick" questions. "Thin" questions have short, simple answers while a "Thick" question leads to a deeper and more open-ended response. This week students will be matched with an interview partner and begin the interview process. Their interviews will be supported with the use of our iPads.

### **Math**

We will begin our first unit, Whole Number Computation and Applications, this week. In this unit, students will focus primarily on multiplication and division of whole numbers. This week, we will be reviewing place value concepts and exponents. Students will be using place value charts to multiply and divide by powers of 10.

Each student has a yellow workbook and students will be assigned 2-3 pages from the workbook as homework Monday through Thursday each week. Homework is posted on each Fifth Grade teacher's page, as well as on the 5th Grade wiki. A PDF version of the math workbook is also posted on the 5th grade wiki.

## **Science**

We will have our first Science classes this week. Each week, classes will meet Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Mondays and Tuesdays will feature new topics and labs, while Thursdays will focus mainly on learning the Reading for Information standards of the Common Core and research. Our first "Big Question" is: "What is earth's place in the universe?" Students will be expected to be able to support an argument that differences in the apparent brightness of the sun compared to other stars is due to their relative distances from the Earth. We will focus this week on preparing our science notebooks, investigations that delve into questions of light, and classroom conversations that prompt questions and further thinking.

## **Social Studies**

This week we will begin a Social Studies mini-unit that focuses on the idea of Earth as a "Global Village". The book If the World Were A Village contains statistics such as global languages, incomes, resource use, and ages all adjusted to if the world were a village of 100 people. We will begin to read the book and students will complete a number of graphing activities designed to help them understand the information.

## **Spelling/Word Study**

This will be our final week of Spelling Words. All students will have the same list this week.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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